

3 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. Attached is a draft communication to Secretary Vance (either cable or letter) from you. It responds to your telephonic instructions. It was drafted by me and reworked with the help of John Bross, Bud Wheelon, [redacted] and Ledford. It is designed to reverse the most pressing problem of CORONA at Palo Alto and indicate the general problem that is developing in connection with all NRO programs. I recommend it for your approval.

25)

2. In order that you may have the full background, I am attaching several groups of cables which you may not have seen, as follows:

25X1 A. [redacted] (referred to in numbered paragraph 1 of your proposed message to Vance);

25X1 B. [redacted] (ditto) -- Note that all references in the operating manual which assigned responsibilities to CIA at Palo Alto are transferred to the Air Force.

25X1 C. My message [redacted] protesting this action;

25X1 D. My message [redacted] protesting the transfer of Lt. Colonel Webb;

E. A draft letter to McMillan from me which I have not sent but which gives you the facts.

3. Both of the cables I sent were dispatched yesterday afternoon, 2 December -- as of 7:20 p.m., today, 3 December, I have received no response from McMillan and the West Coast has

NRO review(s) completed.

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received no additional instructions. Lt. Colonel Webb is under Air Force orders to sign in at Sunnyvale tonight by midnight. I have instructed him to do exactly that, and to conform in specific detail to any military instructions he receives through appropriate Air Force channels.

4. I will hope to have your approval and further guidance for the weekend when we open business tomorrow. I am informed that Secretary Vance will be in his office between 7:30 and 8:30 in the morning but I was left with the impression that he would be leaving his office later on in the morning on another trip.

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

P. S. We tried to keep your draft message as simple as possible and not get into all of the OXCART problems which are detailed, manifold, and argumentative.

D R A F T  
MSC:blp (3 DEC 64)

ILLEGIB

PROPOSED CABLE TO SECRETARY VANCE FROM DCI - EYES ONLY -  
PERSONAL

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL ~~WEEK~~ WEEKS A NUMBER OF UNILATERAL,  
TOTALLY UNCOORDINATED ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY DIRECTOR,  
NRO, WHICH VITALLY AFFECT RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THESE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN SPITE OF PROTESTS BY  
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE. THEY ARE  
NOT CONSONANT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING YOU AND I HAVE THAT  
NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE IN THE CORONA PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES  
AT THIS TIME AND CERTAIN OF THEM PREJUDGE ISSUES WHICH ARE  
STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION.

AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AND IN LINE WITH MY  
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SUPERVISION, WITH YOU, OF THE NATIONAL  
RECONNAISSANCE PLAN, I MUST INSIST THAT THE FOLLOWING  
INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY DIRECTOR, NRO, BE RESCINDED AT ONCE  
AND THAT CURRENT OPERATING PROCEDURES IN EFFECT PRIOR TO  
ISSUANCE OF THE DIRECTIVES CITED BELOW BE RECONSTITUTED:

25X1

1.  OF 30 NOVEMBER AND  OF 1 DECEMBER

~~WHICH TRANSFERS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYLOAD DECISIONS~~

25X1

- 2 -

AT PALO ALTO FROM CIA TO THE AIR FORCE, AND ELIMINATES  
CIA FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS NE F.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FROM DIRECTOR, NRO, THROUGH AIR FORCE  
CHANNELS WHICH TRANSFERRED LT. COLONEL VERNARD WEBB  
FROM DETAIL TO CIA (IN WHICH CAPACITY HE WAS SENIOR CIA  
REPRESENTATIVE AT PALO ALTO) AND REASSIGNING HIM ON 72 HOURS'  
NOTICE TO SUNNYVALE.

THE PROBLEM IS NOT CONFINED TO CORONA. THE DNRO HAS  
RECENTLY TAKEN OTHER UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT  
OF THE OVERALL NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PLAN WHICH MAKE IT  
MANDATORY THAT YOU, BOB, AND ~~ISX~~ I SIT DOWN NEXT WEEK AND  
DEVELOP A BETTER ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPT.

END OF MESSAGE